To: Joint Health and Welfare Legislative Committees

From: Jim Rehder, Chair, Reg. II Mental Health Board Hehlel

Subject: Testimony on Behavioral Health for Listening Session on Feb 8, 2013

It was best described by Dept of Correction Director Reinke when he said, "You don't have to be a felon to receive Mental Health (MH) services". Nationally, 1 in 4 Americans experience a MH problem and 1 in 17 experiences serious mental illness. I have sent you Region II Behavioral Health (MH & SUD) survey within the past month. Idaho ranks 52 nationally in MH spending per capita.

Region II survey results from prior year (Mental Health = MH; Substance Use Disorder = SUD)

up 36%
up 24%
up 123% — wsb no
up 6%
up 90%
up 8%
flataffaiv
up 6%
up 12 % — ano
up 31% U2 & HM 161

Idaho Suicide data (<a href="http://www.spanidaho.org/">http://www.spanidaho.org/</a>)—6<sup>th</sup> highest rate in the nation; 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for youth; in 2011, 284 people completed suicide (the equivalent of two 727 aircraft crashes with no survivors per year). We ask you to continue support for the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline.

The goal, one day, is to treat MH like physical health. Housing, transportation, and other local support services are all necessary services, but are not covered by insurance. Additionally, mental illness stigma is a barrier for many to seek help.

Since the sharp Medicaid cuts in 2011, there have been substantial increases of behavioral health cases, many being acute cases. We are deeply concerned with the proposed personal property tax cut without replacement revenue to the local governments.

Behavioral Health (BH) transformation provides the local control needed to tend to the needs and priorities of the respective regions. <u>Early intervention</u> is the key to reducing emergency room visits and incarceration. We need to tend to kids with BH history who drop out of school and often times do not have functional families to give them mentoring and support.

As you can see this is a complex issue and cannot be adequately covered in a one page testimony.

We encourage you to make Behavioral Health a State priority. Warded additional to the appropriate the state priority of the state of th

Thank you for your favorable consideration for Behavioral Health Transformation.